

Sedberry House
211 North Market Street
Jefferson
Marion County
Texas

HABS No. TEX-151

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. TEX-151

SEDBERRY HOUSE

Location: 211 North Market Street, Jefferson, Marion County,
Texas

Present Owner
and Occupant: Ruth Sedberry

Present Use: Residence

Statement of
Significance: This is among the finest nineteenth century houses
in Jefferson. It is characterized, on the exterior,
by an elegant second-story, tetrastyle portico,
curved cast-iron stairways and a bracketed cornice.
A fine example of a "Raised Cottage." The archi-
tectural details suggest French influences,
probably from New Orleans.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: W. J. Sedberry owned the house until 1892 when it was given to his son, H. H. Sedberry. (Marion County Deed Book W, p. 458.)

In 1924 the present owner, Ruth Sedberry, received the property through a deed of trust. (Marion County Deed of Trust Book R, p. 397.)

2. Date of erection: c. 1870.
3. Architect: Unknown.
4. Additions and alterations: None apparent.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

The Sedberrys were a prominent early family in Jefferson. The drugstore which they operated from 1865 until early in the twentieth century was one of the oldest in the State.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This is among the finest nineteenth century houses in Jefferson. It is characterized,

on the exterior, by an elegant second-story, tetrastyle portico, curved cast-iron stairways and a bracketed cornice.

2. Condition of fabric: The building is well maintained on the exterior. The interior, however, is badly deteriorated.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The main section of the house is approximately 45' wide. A wing which extends to the southwest is approximately 16' wide and 36' long and lines up with the southeast edge of the main section. The house is of the "raised cottage type" with a story-and-a-half frame section above a full raised brick basement.
2. Foundations: Brick.
3. Wall construction: On the ground floor the walls are constructed of brick. Above, they are wood frame finished on the exterior with clapboards.
4. Chimneys: Paired brick end chimneys, plastered on the interior.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: On the ground floor, there are four-panel doors with transoms in rectangular openings on the northwest, northeast and southeast sides. The main (northeast) doorway on the first floor has colored glass sidelights and transom and French two-panel doors.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Most of the windows are four-over-four wooden double-hung sash with tall, narrow proportions. The attic windows are double-hung with tapered heads. Only the ground floor windows have shutters.
6. Portico and porches: The main entrance to the house is from the Doric tetrastyle portico which is supported at the ground floor level by brick piers. The portico has an ornamental cast-iron railing and is reached by curving cast-iron stairs at either end.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: The main section of the house has a gabled roof with a subsidiary gable above the portico. The southwest wing also has a gabled roof.

- b. Cornice: The cornice at eaves line, around the gables, and around the portico is ornamented with wooden brackets spaced at about 2'-0" on center.

C. Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor plans: Floor plans of main section are symmetrical. The ground level floor has a central hall with an entry under the porch of the portico, and two rooms on either side of the hall. The two back rooms have doors to the exterior as well as to the central hall.

The spaces in the main section of the first floor are identical to those in the basement in area and arrangement. The kitchen and dining room are in the southwest wing.

The attic has three symmetrically arranged spaces, each with a window.

- 2. Stairways: Stairway to first floor is one run with enclosed stringers, turned balusters and newel, molded handrail. Outer stringer is ornamented with sawn-wood decorative elements, and wall stringer has heavy moldings.
- 3. Flooring: The ground floor is paved with brick. The first floor and attic have 5"-wide, vertical-grain pine flooring.
- 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Ground floor walls are plaster on brick. The walls on the first floor and attic are finished with lath and plaster. First floor walls are papered.

Ceilings throughout are finished with lath and plaster and are either papered or painted.
- 5. Doors: All interior doors are wooden, four-panel with heavy wood panel moldings.
- 6. Trim: Door and window casings on the ground floor are plain. On the first floor they are wide and have molded edges. The floor base is wood with a molded top.
- 7. Hardware: Iron butts, iron latch hardware with porcelain knobs.

8. Mechanical equipment:

- a. Lighting: All of the original chandeliers have been removed. However, large medallions on the ceilings of the first floor, main section, indicate that the chandeliers may have been rather elaborate.
- b. Heating: Several small unit gas heaters are now used. There are eight fireplaces in the house, four on the first floor and four on the ground floor. All of these have been closed. They are trimmed with wood and have wooden mantels.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The site slopes down steeply to the northeast permitting direct access to the ground floor on the front and to the first floor on the back, or southwest side. The main door faces northeast and is approached from curved, iron stairways.
2. Walks, driveways etc.: Walks on the site are brick.
3. Outbuildings: A well is located on the southwest side of the house, near the kitchen.

Prepared by Willard B. Robinson, AIA
Supervisory Architect, HABS
National Park Service
July 1966

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were made in 1966 during a summer project financed by the National Park Service to record 16 structures in Jefferson and the near-by area. The summer recording team received the cooperation of numerous citizens and organizations who provided office space, lodgings, board, and research assistance. Among the cooperators were the Dan Lester Drilling Company, the Excelsior Hotel, Mrs. A. K. Payne, the Jessie Allen Wise Garden Club, and the Marion County Chamber of Commerce.

The project was under the direction of A. Lewis Koue of the Historic American Buildings Survey's Western Office in San Francisco. Supervisor of the recording team was Willard B. Robinson, AIA, of Texas Technological College. The team was composed of student architects David L. Bouse of the University of Nebraska, Bob J. Fong of the University of Idaho, Donald Quackenbush of Washington State University, and Robert M. Swanson of the University of Texas. Photographs were made by National Park Service Photographer, Jack E. Boucher.